



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 60: UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 67: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 69: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 62: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/33/SR.42
27 November 1978
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 60: UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN, in reply to a question asked by the USSR representative at the 40th meeting, said that draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.24, on industrial development co-operation, had no financial implications. Accordingly, the statement of financial implications in document A/C.2/33/L.17 should be ignored.

AGENDA ITEM 67: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1

2. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Co-ordinator for Disaster Relief), replying to comments made in the Committee, said that within the limits of its mandate for handling the emergency phase of disasters, his Office would continue to be very actively concerned with the victims of the situation in Ethiopia, which was still serious. Although some progress had been made, much remained to be done, and it was to be hoped that there would be a generous response to the call for assistance made again by the Committee in approving draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.25. He welcomed the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1), which drew attention to the need for all donors and recipients of assistance to use of the co-ordinating machinery of UNDR0 more extensively in emergency situations.

3. With regard to the suggestion that the annual report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office should be more detailed and should include a comprehensive examination of the strengths and weaknesses of UNDR0, he said that there had been plans to make such a review but that it had been delayed for two reasons. First, there had been difficulties in recruiting qualified personnel and although everything possible was being done to speed up recruitment, the fact was that the Office had been working well below strength. The second reason was that for some time past it had been realized that the original tentative structure of UNDR0 needed to be revised in the light of experience. The restructuring had already been carried out and had been favourably received. It was to be hoped that the grouping of most of the personnel into regional sections would lead to a unified approach that would be more effective than the earlier arrangements. It would probably be premature to make an analytical study of UNDR0's operations until such time as the new structure had been in operation for a reasonable period, but such an examination would be carried out as early as possible, although it probably would not be completed before the date of preparation of the following annual report.

4. Some representatives had expressed the hope that UNDRO would not stray into areas that were the responsibility of other United Nations bodies, specifically the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Environment Programme. In the case of UNHCR, a memorandum of understanding had recently been concluded which clearly delimited the respective functions of the two bodies. He himself could recall no case in which there had been duplication of activities, and the agreement just concluded would make it possible to obviate any problem that might, in theory, arise. Similarly there was no duplication or confusion of functions between UNDRO and UNEP, but there was close co-operation which was satisfactory to both parties, and UNDRO had made several studies with help from UNEP funds.
5. It would be essential to maintain the trust fund in order to strengthen the structure of UNDRO during the 1980-1981 biennium and to maintain the current approved level of activities. Since the trust fund had been authorized up to 31 December 1979, a decision of the General Assembly would be required to keep it in existence beyond that date. Several delegations had expressed support for the programmes of UNDRO in disaster preparedness and prevention, and the necessary financial resources would have to be available for that work. With regard to the technical co-operation projects in the field, paragraph 7 of the draft resolution before the Committee requested that consideration should be given to possible funding from UNDP's regional and interregional programmes, and that would be a valuable means of action.
6. The CHAIRMAN announced that Afghanistan and Uganda had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1.
7. Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia) said that his delegation too had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.
8. Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1 was approved without a vote.
9. Ms. VARRATI (United States of America) said that her country continued to support UNDRO and would make a contribution of \$250,000 for the trust fund in the 1979 financial year. However, in her delegation's view, the transfer to the regular budget of the United Nations of funds derived from voluntary contributions was to be avoided. In accordance with that principle, her Government believed that the major expenditures of UNDRO should continue to be financed from the trust fund.
10. Mr. YEVDOKHEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reiterated the position of principle stated by his delegation at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly with regard to resolution 32/56, which was referred to in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution that had just been approved. Subject to that reservation, his delegation associated itself with the approval by consensus of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.35/Rev.1.

AGENDA ITEM 69: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1; A/33/3/Add.1 (Part I), A/33/151, 206, 300; A/C.2/33/L.34 and L.37)

Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.34

11. Mr. MAAMOURI (Tunisia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.34, drew attention to an error of substance in the fifth preambular paragraph of the French text, in which the word "technique" should be replaced by "économique". The fact that the draft resolution, which he was introducing on behalf of the Group of 77, was also sponsored by China, Finland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Turkey reflected the underlying meaning which the Buenos Aires Conference had tried to give to technical co-operation among developing countries which, while remaining primarily a collective effort of the countries of the Group of 77, also extended to co-operation with other countries and even included such co-operation as one of the foundations of the new approach. In the text of the draft resolution the sponsors had tried to preserve the spirit of Buenos Aires and to maintain the consensus. In the fifth preambular paragraph reference was made to the recommendations of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City, and to the decisions of the Conference on Afro-Arab Co-operation, with a view to reaffirming the close link between technical and economic co-operation. In the operative part, paragraph 6 was of paramount importance inasmuch as it urged all Governments to take intensified and sustained action for the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the resolutions adopted by the Conference, because constant and uninterrupted action was required to keep the spirit of Buenos Aires alive. Paragraph 11 was based on the relevant decision of the Conference, and an effort had been made not to keep that decision intact in order to maintain the consensus, in the hope that consensus could also be achieved in the General Assembly on supporting technical co-operation among developing countries, which was, in the last analysis, a form of co-operation among all countries.

Draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.37

12. Mr. DASHTSEREM (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.37 on behalf of the sponsors, said that they had borne in mind, first, the widely recognized fact that the shortage of qualified national personnel in key sectors of the socio-economic life of developing countries remained one of the major obstacles to the achievement of their economic goals. Although recent years had witnessed growing interest among agencies of the United Nations system in identifying appropriate forms of assisting the developing countries to tackle problems concerning unemployment and the development of human resources, including the problem of training national personnel, a more comprehensive approach to the problem was required in order to ensure effective co-ordination of future action by the organizations of the United Nations system.

13. In that connexion, the co-sponsors noted with satisfaction the recommendations and decisions made and the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in the field of employment, human resources and enhancing national research and training capacities. In the

(Mr. Dashtseren, Mongolia)

view of the co-sponsors, the question relating to the role of national qualified personnel in the socio-economic development of developing countries should also be fully taken into account in formulating the new international development strategy for the 1980s. In studying that question and preparing recommendations on it, the Secretary-General should make use of the experience accumulated by agencies and organizations such as UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO and FAO. The sponsors were confident that, in implementing the provisions of the resolution, the Secretary-General and the organizations concerned would take into account national experiences of countries with different economic and social systems in the field of training of national qualified personnel.

14. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus and announced that Egypt, Guinea and Zambia had become sponsors of it. He also pointed out that the words "in developing countries" should be inserted after the word "personnel" in paragraph 1.

15. Mr. BIKOUTA (Congo) said that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action could be regarded as the expression of hope of the large majority of peoples of the world that they would be liberated from poverty and would finally participate in a more equitable distribution of the world's riches. However, it should be borne in mind that consensus on a text was not enough to make it a reality. Consequently, TCDC should not be considered as a question of concern only to the poor countries, since it was a concept based on world-wide solidarity, economic interdependence and the rejection of certain north-south relationships in the framework of a financially one-sided economic system.

16. The Buenos Aires Conference had provided an opportunity to codify a previously empirical practice, namely TCDC, and to make an inventory of the possibilities of giving it a more operational character. Since the sixth special session of the General Assembly, at which the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order had been adopted, the international economic scene seemed to be more confrontation than harmony. His delegation believed, therefore, that TCDC was perhaps the best means of introducing qualitative change into world economic relations. It could be said that, in reality, no absolutely irreconcilable conflicts existed between the developed and developing countries and that economic interdependence was the only factor capable of transforming the desire of the majority of the world's peoples into a lasting reality.

17. His delegation welcomed the fact that, in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the co-ordination of TCDC had been entrusted to UNDP, one of the more operational and dynamic United Nations organs.

18. Mr. OMRAN (United Arab Emirates) recalled that the Minister for Foreign Relations of his country had stated in the General Assembly that TCDC was one of the most important factors for the establishment of a new international economic order. As exploitation could not continue to be one of the characteristics of international economic relations, the developed countries should be prepared to give up some of the privileges they enjoyed and lend their support to TCDC.

/...

(Mr. Omran, United Arab Emirates)

19. His country had always participated in TCDC and had co-operated with developing countries in Africa and Asia in the implementation of development programmes and economic feasibility studies, in spite of the fact that there was no surplus of oil revenues, since the country needed to establish a socio-economic infrastructure and diversify its economic resources, in order to assure the future of coming generations. The assistance provided by the United Arab Emirates in technical co-operation activities far exceeded the target set by the International Development Strategy. His Government believed it necessary to establish a bridge for technical co-operation between North and South, in order to alleviate the distressing situation prevailing in the third world. It was the historic responsibility of all countries to create new relationships which would make it possible to establish the North-South bridge and to implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as a basis for TCDC, thereby reducing the enormous disparity existing between developed and developing countries.

20. Mr. YEVDOKHEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in the light of the results of the Buenos Aires Conference and the provisions of the Plan of Action, his country understood the efforts of the developing countries to broaden and intensify their contacts within the framework of TCDC and supported their struggle to eliminate the under-development which was the legacy of colonialism and neo-colonial exploitation.

21. In order to eliminate that under-development, it was very important to carry out a radical restructuring of relations between the developing countries and the industrialized capitalist countries on a just and democratic basis, since TCDC must be based on the progressive principles embodied in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and on respect for the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources. It was also essential to implement progressive reforms in the economic and social fields, including the development of the public sector and the elimination of feudal land tenure systems, by making maximum use of national resources and potential. TCDC must be genuinely international and, at the same time, take account of regional and national peculiarities. The Soviet Union was prepared to promote and develop technical, trade and scientific co-operation, taking into account the special characteristics of the Soviet system and of the socialist countries.

22. His delegation had taken note of the report of the Conference on TCDC and believed that the Plan of Action must constitute an international instrument for the promotion of scientific and technical co-operation between developing countries and other groups of States, and for the establishment of a new international economic order on an equitable and democratic basis. In that context, it was essential to promote world-wide détente and the adoption of concrete measures in the field of disarmament.

23. Mr. SATTI (Pakistan) said that, as Mr. Morse had pointed out, although TCDC was not a new idea suddenly appearing on the horizon, the Buenos Aires Conference had been the first major effort at bringing together ideas and plans for concrete action in the field of TCDC on a global scale. The Plan of Action represented an important step forward in promoting TCDC and contained recommendations for further advancement.

(Mr. Satti, Pakistan)

24. While the first responsibility for TCDC lay with the developing countries, who must develop policies and technologies appropriate to their needs, the active participation and assistance of the developed countries and the international agencies such as UNDP were essential to the development of that process. Accordingly, the international machinery and financial resources of the agencies must be used more effectively for the promotion of TCDC.

25. His delegation considered, for example, that countries should be free to utilize any portion of their IPFs for the promotion of TCDC activities at the regional and interregional levels and that the funds required for TCDC could be treated as the first charge on the resources of UNDP allocated under regional IPFs and global projects. Programmes could include triangular co-operation with other countries, including developed countries, which could add a northern dimension to south-south co-operation. In that regard, it was necessary to emphasize once again the important role that international development and financing institutions could play. The adoption of concrete measures by developing countries would help to create the atmosphere necessary to encourage those institutions to support TCDC.

26. He noted with satisfaction that the Conference had not led to the creation of another large bureaucracy; however, he supported the idea of strengthening the appropriate parts of UNDP, which could provide a model for other organizations in the United Nations system, so that an increasing proportion of their resources could be devoted to the promotion of TCDC activities. The spirit of TCDC must permeate the entire United Nations development system.

27. Although, in the modern world, interdependence had overcome any notions of autarchy, it had, at the same time, reinforced the need for self-reliance of all countries, particularly the developing countries. TCDC was an important contributor to the promotion of self-reliance, both individually and collectively, among the developing countries. In conclusion, he stated that Pakistan would continue to increase its contributions to the promotion of TCDC in all fields, within the limits of its technical capacity.

28. Mr. KAMAL (Bangladesh) said that, in view of the difficulties which had arisen in North-South relations, TCDC was imperative for the establishment of a new international economic order, because it helped further the national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries and their capacity to resolve their development problems. Many developing countries had a vast accumulated pool of experience in the use, adaptation and creation of technology at the national level, but, for a variety of reasons, they had not been able to share that experience with other countries. TCDC had to be perceived as a process of exchanging experience and building new knowledge, wherein each developing country was a recipient and a donor at the same time.

29. In the general debate in the Second Committee, his delegation had called for the endorsement by the General Assembly of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, which was the result of a general consensus and provided an integrated framework for the

/...

(Mr. Kamal, Bangladesh)

organization and promotion of co-operation among developing countries at the national, regional and global levels. At the national level, the 14 recommendations of the Plan were designed to make developing countries aware of their own potentials, capabilities and experience and those of other developing countries, in order to assist in the implementation of projects with the TCDC dimension. The eight recommendations for action at the subregional, regional and interregional levels had the principle purpose of strengthening the capacity of existing institutions and organizations to promote TCDC in high-priority areas identified by Governments. In that connexion, his delegation agreed with the representative of Nepal with regard to the immense possibilities for technical co-operation among the countries of southern Asia in the exploitation of water resources. The 16 recommendations for action at the global level made it clear that the international community was concerned that the spirit of TCDC should permeate the entire United Nations development system. In all international technical assistance programmes, preference should be given to the experience and technology of the developing countries.

30. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action had designated UNDP as the principal promoter and catalyst of TCDC and had called for the strengthening of the Special Unit for TCDC, which should continue to be financed from the administrative budget of UNDP for carrying out the various important tasks assigned to it. Although the financing of TCDC activities should be primarily the responsibility of the developing countries, who had to control the decision making, financial assistance from the developed countries and the United Nations development system would be necessary, and special measures would have to be taken to resolve the problems of the least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected countries.

31. His delegation found it absolutely necessary that there should be a periodic intergovernmental review by high-level representatives of all States participating in UNDP TCDC activities. The Administrator should organize the first meeting for that purpose in 1980, for a review of the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. His delegation was confident that the General Assembly would endorse the other resolutions of the Buenos Aires Conference on assistance to Namibia, national research and training centres of multinational scope, and technical co-operation among developing countries in the spheres of employment and human resources, as well as the resolution of gratitude to the host country.

32. Mr. DA MOTTA (Portugal), after expressing his satisfaction at the results achieved at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the spirit of co-operation which had prevailed there, said that Portugal, being at an intermediate stage of development, was particularly interested in TCDC, with a view to exchanging experiences with other countries that were in a similar situation. As a less industrialized country, it supported the joint activities of the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

33. TCDC was not an end in itself but a means of materializing the imperative of establishing the new international economic order, that essential objective towards

/...

(Mr. Da Motta, Portugal)

which all co-operation activities must be oriented. Although TCDC was basically an affair of the developing countries, the role of the developed countries and the United Nations system, which had the difficult task of translating into practice the spirit and decisions of the Buenos Aires Conference, should not be overlooked. The role of developed countries should be to support TCDC, which should be envisaged not as an obstacle to traditional co-operation or a mere complement to it but as a means of establishing a more balanced and self-reliant international system.

34. Clearly, there had to be a mutually supportive relation between international economic negotiations and operational activities for development, with the ultimate aim of establishing a new international economic order. TCDC must therefore form an important element of the new international development strategy for the promotion of collective self-reliance and the achievement of institutional reforms and structural changes with a view to the restructuring of international economic relations. It was not a question of renegotiating previous targets but of seeking more adequate ways of achieving them, and TCDC would form the practical link between general objectives and the concrete situation in developing countries.

35. His delegation urged UNDP, in accordance with recommendation 26 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, to develop and expand the Information Referral System in order to make a contribution to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. In conclusion, he pointed out that the future of TCDC depended not only on the political will of the developed countries but, basically, on that of the developing countries, who had to know how to seize that opportunity.

36. Mr. DHARAT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking also on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic, stressed the importance of the Buenos Aires Conference and said that TCDC constituted an important dimension in international relations and one that was necessary in order to achieve individual and collective self-reliance, resolve socio-economic development problems and strengthen the political, technological and other links among the developing countries. It represented a fundamental stage in the preparation of the next international development strategy aimed at the establishment of a new, more just, international economic order, based on respect for the sovereignty and independence of all countries. TCDC was necessary so that the developing countries could utilize their resources in the most effective way and establish, on the basis of existing resources, their own development strategies. It was not, however, an alternative to technical co-operation with the developed countries, which must lend their assistance to development by increasing resources for official development aid to the target figure of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product.

37. Emphasis must be placed on the importance of the role of UNDP and other bodies in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The delegations of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Syrian Arab Republic were in favour of convening in 1980 or 1981 a high-level meeting of representatives of the States participating

/...

(Mr. Dharat, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

in UNDP in order to review the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action and ensure the promotion of TCDC. He drew attention to the importance of recommendation 27 of the Plan of Action, concerning control of the "brain drain", which was a serious problem for many developing countries. He hoped that the international community would devote all the necessary efforts to TCDC, the importance of which had been definitively highlighted in the Kuwait Declaration.

38. Mr. RAMONDT (Netherlands) emphasized the importance of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and said that the United Nations system for development, within the framework of existing mandates and of the recommendations of the Conference, had to give active support to the developing countries in their efforts to promote co-operation among themselves. UNDP should be the central channel for multilateral technical assistance, but the role of the regional economic commissions, which were forums for intergovernmental consultations between developing countries, was also extremely important.

39. In view of the importance of TCDC for promoting the self-reliance of the developing countries, his Government was prepared to take the objectives of TCDC into consideration in the implementation of its own policies in the field of bilateral development co-operation, where appropriate and when so desired by the recipient countries.

40. Mr. KOROSSO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the encouraging results of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries offered another important opportunity for developing countries to realize fully their capabilities and to acquire more confidence. In that connexion, he regarded the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as a firm manifestation of the developing countries' determination to strengthen their individual and collective self-reliance, as a step towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

41. His delegation fully supported the decisions and recommendations of the Conference; however, in order to ensure the successful implementation of the Plan of Action it was essential that there should be total understanding and acceptance of the objectives and philosophy underlying the establishment of TCDC. It would be extremely difficult to implement the Plan of Action unless the developing countries were prepared to treat each other on the basis of complete equality and in the spirit of genuine co-operation. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the importance the Plan attached to establishing and strengthening communications of all kinds among developing countries, including the Information Referral System, because the absence of adequate information was likely to remain a major constraint in the promotion of TCDC.

42. If sooner or later TCDC was not supported by a major restructuring of the international economic relationships, the implementation of the Plan of Action would have a negligible impact on the development process of poor countries. It would be unrealistic for developing countries to expect that TCDC alone would help in narrowing the imbalances in the distribution of the planet's wealth. TCDC

/...

(Mr. Korosso, Tanzania)

should be regarded as the beginning, not the end, of a long and hard struggle towards the establishment of a new international economic order. The significance of TCDC lay primarily in its complementary role in the global efforts to promote the objectives and principles of that new order. In that context, his delegation whole-heartedly supported the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

43. Mr. NIZAMUDDIN (India) said that technical co-operation among developing countries should be viewed within the framework of the new international economic order, of which it constituted a notable element. TCDC was a collective effort on the part of the world community which must be informed by the principle of universality. Such co-operation was a useful means for developing and applying appropriate technologies in the developing countries, by helping them to free themselves from dependence on expensive and often unsuitable imported technologies. Yet TCDC was no substitute for traditional technical co-operation; it should be regarded as a supplement; and it had to be approached within the framework of the development plans and programmes of the participants.

44. Among the constraints to the growth of TCDC were infrastructural difficulties, especially problems of communication and transportation, the lack of suitable information about existing possibilities and, most important of all, attitudes of dependence. The implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would serve to reduce and eliminate those constraints. The Plan was a balanced and constructive document, and his delegation stressed the importance of the recommendations for subregional and regional aspects of TCDC because, while the concept of TCDC had a global dimension, the first opportunities for its establishment and growth occurred at the subregional and regional levels. For that reason, there was an important role to be played by the regional commissions, as well as by other organs and organizations of the United Nations development system, in identifying, developing and implementing TCDC projects at the subregional and regional levels.

45. TCDC must enhance the growth of national and collective self-reliance. Thus his delegation laid particular emphasis on recommendation 23 of the Conference. Another recommendation which demanded particular attention was recommendation 26 on the improvement of information flows. The Information Referral System (IMRES) was a beginning but needed expansion and improvement.

46. The concept of TCDC must permeate the entire United Nations development system and not merely be regarded as a separate activity affecting some portions of it. Thus his delegation emphasized the significance of the recommendations addressed to the organizations of the United Nations, enjoining them to make the necessary effort to pursue TCDC activities. Of particular importance was recommendation 34 on the strengthening of UNDP for the promotion and support of TCDC. The strengthening of the Special Unit of UNDP must be seen as part of the process of strengthening that organization's entire capacity in the field of TCDC.

47. His delegation fully endorsed the proposals contained in recommendation 37 on

/...

(Mr. Nizamuddin, India)

intergovernmental arrangements, and considered that the arrangements envisaged represented a balanced and practical modality for overseeing and ensuring the expansion of TCDC within the United Nations development system.

48. His delegation regarded it as especially appropriate that the Conference had not sought to set up yet another separate fund, since to have done so might have injected confusion into some essential conceptual issues; a separate fund would have tended to isolate TCDC from the regular activities of the United Nations development system.

49. His Government had decided to set aside a percentage of its indicative planning figure for TCDC as a token of its resolve to work within the new spirit of collective self-reliance and as a means of promoting friendship and co-operation with other developing countries.

50. Mrs. LI Miao-chung (China) said that the convening in Buenos Aires of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was in itself a reflection of the profound changes in the international situation and a testimony to the increasingly important role played by the third world countries as the main force against colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism, not only politically, but also economically. TCDC was an important component of the establishment of a new international economic order and a vivid demonstration of the firm will of the third world countries to help each other and practise individual and collective self-reliance. The developing countries had all suffered from imperialist oppression and exploitation in the past and today were confronted with the common task of national construction. The striking similarities of developing countries within a given region had led in recent years to the setting up of regional organizations, thanks to which the economic development of the countries concerned had been accelerated and their unity against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism had been strengthened.

51. TCDC did not exclude economic and technical exchange and co-operation with the developed countries on the basis of respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit; nor did it preclude learning from the scientific and technological experience of the developed countries. However, there still existed many unfair and irrational policies and practices in technical exchange which were not in conformity with the principles for the establishment of a new international economic order and which should be reformed.

52. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action provided clearly for the objectives, nature and orientation of TCDC. It stipulated that the United Nations should earmark a substantial portion of resources to financing TCDC, and urged the developed countries to increase their voluntary contributions for that purpose. In addition, the Plan of Action provided for periodic high-level meetings for the comprehensive examination of the issues of TCDC. Her delegation hoped that those periodic examinations would lead to the gradual implementation of the various measures provided for in the Plan.

53. As a developing socialist country, China had consistently supported economic

/...

(Mrs. Li Miao-chung, China)

and technical co-operation among developing countries on the basis of respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit and would continue to strengthen and expand that type of co-operation.

54. At present, the scope of TCDC was still limited; however, it was a new phenomenon which had a bright future. As long as the developing countries strengthened their unity and co-operated closely with each other, and with the necessary support from the developed countries and the United Nations organs, TCDC would continue to develop and would make an even greater contribution to the national economic development of the developing countries and to the establishment of a new international economic order.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.